

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on General Laws

Currently, no municipal judge can serve as a municipal judge in more than five municipalities at one time. This bill clarifies that if one court serves more than one municipality it is just considered a single municipality for this purpose.

When an individual has been held in custody on a notice to show cause warrant for an underlying minor traffic violation, this bill allows the court to waive or reduce the original fine or sentence.

The bill further requires any notice to appear in court, citation, or summons for a minor traffic violation to include the date and time a defendant is to appear in court when the defendant is first provided the summons, notice to appear in court, or citation. If the summons, notice to appear in court, or citation does not include such information when first given to the defendant, the summons will be void.

This bill requires motorists charged with traffic violations to receive notification, in person, from an officer employed by the law enforcement agency issuing the violation, within 24 hours of the violation. This does not apply to parking tickets, incidents requiring further investigation, or any other situation in which in-person notification is not possible.

This bill prohibits any state agency or political subdivision of this state from enacting or enforcing any law that authorizes the use of an automated traffic system which records images of cars, drivers, or the license plates in order to establish that a traffic infraction occurred. The bill does not apply to information recorded and used at weigh stations managed by the State Highway Patrol or the Department of Transportation. Any state agency or political subdivision that currently has an automated traffic enforcement system installation or maintenance contract must complete or terminate the contract within one year of the effective date. The bill does not allow exemptions to be made for political subdivisions in the future except by express reference as it contains an entrenchment clause.

This bill repeals provisions of law that specify that court reporters shall receive \$3.50 per page in proceedings in any circuit court. The bill also repeals the requirement that court reporters be reimbursed at \$3.50 per page.